



DATE SUBMITTED: August 11, 2009

PROGRAM CONTACT: Steve Branson, Regional Parks Superintendent, (336) 373-3679

NAME OF PROGRAM: **Price Park Meadow Restoration Controlled Burn Planned**

DATE: Tentatively planned for the period of August 20-28, 2009

LOCATION: Price Park, 1420 Price Park Road, Greensboro, NC

DESCRIPTION: The Piedmont Land Conservancy and Greensboro Parks & Recreation announce plans to continue the restoration of Price Park's natural areas and wildlife habitats with the planning of a prescribed burn of the Meadowlark Meadow. The burn will precede the planting of native warm-season grasses and wildflowers, which will occur in late fall. Although dependent upon local weather conditions, the prescribed burn is tentatively planned for August 20-28, 2009.

Prescribed burning enhances the resources on public use lands, such as state and national forests, wildlife refuges, nature preserves, and game lands as well as private lands managed for similar purposes. Prescribed fire reduces the naturally occurring buildup of vegetative fuels on natural lands, thereby reducing the risk and severity of wildfires and lessening the loss of life and property. North Carolina's ever-increasing population is resulting in urban development directly adjacent to fire-prone lands, referred to as a wildland-urban interface area. The use of prescribed burning in these wildland-urban interface areas substantially reduces the risk of wildfires that cause damage.

Many of North Carolina's natural ecosystems require periodic fire for their survival. Prescribed burning is essential to the perpetuation, restoration, and management of many plant and animal communities. Fire consumes plant matter which releases nutrients. The nutrients increase the growth and yield of plants that provide forage and an area for escape and brooding and that satisfy other habitat needs. Prescribed burning benefits game, non-game, and endangered wildlife species by enhancing wildlife habitat.

Price Park is a small island of natural habitat in the sea of urban development. In order to manage the site to promote the most habitat diversity, wildlife and plant biodiversity the reintroduction of fire is a necessary tool in the hands of land managers. All the partners involved agree that the continuation of natural ecological processes, including fire, at Price Park make this site an educational destination for schools and families in the Greensboro area.

The General Assembly recognizes that prescribed burning of forestlands is a management tool that is beneficial to North Carolina's public safety, forest and wildlife resources, environment, and economy in the **NC Prescribed Burn Act GS 133-6**.

For more information on the benefits of prescribed burning, please visit the North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Web page at: <http://ncprescribedfirecouncil.org/>

For more information on the meadow burn at Price Park, contact:

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